

Effingham County's Lending Library



The primary goal of the Even Start Family Literacy Program is to increase the literacy skills of parents and their children. One way that Effingham County Even Start is helping to achieve that goal is by creating its own lending library.

The Effingham County program has partnered with local community organizations and with the national literacy program *Reading is Fundamental* to provide a colorful, comfortable, print-rich environment for parents enrolled in Even Start and their children. The space includes child and adult-sized furnishings, brightly colored walls, character posters, and over 2600 books for adults and children of all ages.

Parents and children participating in the program use a system modeled after the public library system to check out and return books. Families are issued library cards that are valid as long as they are enrolled in Even Start. Parents participate in a reading group where they jointly select a book to read and then team up to make oral presentations to their peers that guide their group discussion.

In addition to books, the library houses touch-screen computers designed for children to develop computer skills and learn through research-based reading and numeracy activities. Parenting education resources are also available in the library, and parents can access other resources through the computers designated for their use.

Through their very own lending library, families in Effingham County are learning literacy...and life...skills that will serve them for years to come.



Effingham County Even Start operates under the leadership of Dr. Norma Wallace and Ms. Beverly Scott.